



**State of Connecticut**  
**SENATE**

**SENATOR TONY HWANG**  
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**ASSISTANT MINORITY LEADER**

**RANKING MEMBER**  
HOUSING COMMITTEE  
LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE

**MEMBER**  
COMMERCE COMMITTEE  
VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Aug. 21, 2015

Governor Dannel P. Malloy  
Office of the Governor  
210 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Dear Governor Malloy:

Many elected leaders, including myself, have spoken to the critical role that General Electric plays in our state and local economies and the profoundly positive impact its employees have within our communities. I think we all get the picture: if GE moves out of Connecticut we're left with a gaping economic hole, major loss of human capital and a black eye for our business development reputation.

With that in mind, I am heartened by reports that your office is working to come up with a plan to keep GE in Fairfield and Connecticut, and I look forward to seeing the specifics.

It is absolutely imperative, though, that we remember that GE is but one of thousands of businesses in Connecticut – and all of them are feeling the same built-up frustration about the untenable nature of state government's spending, taxation and regulation. They all deserve our attention and commitment to creating an environment where they can succeed and grow.

As such, today I am urgently requesting you to fast-track the work of the newly created Commission on Economic Competitiveness and to order an immediate repeal of the Unitary Tax, which was cited by nearly every major Connecticut-based corporation as universally damaging to their ability and willingness to continue to operate in our state.

Based on statutory language approved during the 2015 Special Session, I understand the Commission's charge to be:

Sec. 498. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a Commission on Economic Competitiveness to analyze the implications of state tax policy on state business and industry and to develop policies that promote economic growth. In addition, the commission shall: (1) Examine and report on the implications of the tax revisions set forth in public act 15-244, as amended by this act, on state business and industry; (2) examine the needs of large and small state businesses and industries as relates to their ability to maintain economic competitiveness; and (3) offer legislative recommendations that promote the growth and prosperity of state business and industry, including, but not limited to, recommendations relating to state tax policy.

Given the urgent nature of this matter, I propose that the Commission be tasked with issuing its recommendations ahead of the next legislative session, in January 2016, so that members of the General Assembly may consider, hold public hearings, and act upon any items that require legislative action.

Gov. Malloy, it is crystal clear that we are competing with other states – near and far – for jobs. And in our rapidly evolving, technologically driven and highly competitive economy, it is incumbent upon us as elected leaders to remain on the cutting edge, to invest smartly and responsibly in emerging growth markets, and most importantly, to have tax and public policies that promote entrepreneurship and innovation and send a message to businesses that Connecticut is the best place in the country to live and work.

The work of this Commission will help accomplish that, and we must move with a great sense of purpose. We must also be methodic in our actions and ensure that the steps we take today leave us all poised for greater prosperity tomorrow.

I sincerely hope you see the need and importance of accelerating this process, and I stand ready to support the effort or answer any questions you may have.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration of this proposal.

Kindly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Hwang", with a stylized, flowing script.

Tony Hwang  
Assistant Minority Leader

Cc: Senate President Pro Tempore Martin M. Looney  
Speaker of the House Brendan Sharkey  
Senate Minority Leader Len Fasano  
House Minority Leader Themis Klarides